

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for managing customer accounts in connection with a Pre-Paid platform, in which method

- applications communicate with the Pre-Paid platform, wherein,
- the applications are arranged to communicate with at least one proxy and the Pre-Paid platform correspondingly with a billingcharging module, in which case the proxy and the billingcharging module communicated with each other in a logically predefined manner, in which case

- the proxies are used to collect and manage the services used by the customers, the billingcharging models, and rating, and

- the billingcharging module is used to billcharge a customer's Pre-Paid account, which is located on the Pre-Paid platform, or in a system behind the Pre-Paid platform, wherein

the charging module charges a customer's Pre-Paid account by converting charging information received from the proxy into a format understood by the Pre-Paid platform,

the proxy is used to control the delivery of the service used by the user, and

the proxies prevents services being delivered to the user, if the user's pre-paid account is empty, or if the price of the service is greater than the funds in the Pre-Paid account.

2. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the proxy is used to collect the price of the services used by the user and other similar data and to transmit this data to the billingcharging module.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1 or 2, wherein price data is formed according to various billing principles (for example, content+access, content including access).

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, wherein the proxy is used to control the delivery of the service used by the user.

5. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a service code is transmitted to the Pre-Paid platform with the aid of a call's B-number formed by the charging~~billing~~ module.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 15, wherein the proxies prevent services being delivered to the user, if the user's pre-paid account is empty, or if the price of the service is greater than the funds in the Pre-Paid account.

7. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the charging~~billing~~ module (PCN) transfers to the Pre-Paid platform the real amount of the value of the service ordered by the user, in cash or other consideration, from the user's Pre-Paid account.

8. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the charging~~billing~~ module transmits the billable data to the Pre-Paid platform, using an INAP protocol.

9. (Currently amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein the charging~~billing~~ modules transmits the billable data to the Pre-Paid platform, using a CAP protocol.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein a node converts the price or rating data obtained from the proxy into voice-calls.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 1, wherein call data includes at least a B-number and a time definition.

12. (Currently amended) A Pre-Paid mediator for managing customer accounts in connection with a Pre-Paid platform, in which mediator there are

- a charging~~billings~~ unit for communicating with the Pre-Paid platform, and
 - at least one proxy for communicating with applications (SMS, GPRS, MMS), wherein
 - a data-transfer interface in the direction of the applications is formed to be logically one-way, in which case the proxies can be made modular,
 - the proxies include a unit for collecting and/or managing the price and other similar data of the services used by customers, and wherein
 - the charging~~billing~~ unit includes a unit for charging~~billing~~ a customer's Pre-Paid account in the Pre-Paid platform by converting charging information received from the proxy into a format understood by the Pre-Paid platform, and wherein
- the proxy is used to control the delivery of the service used by the user, and

the proxies prevents services being delivered to the user, if the user's pre-paid account is empty, or if the price of the service is greater than the funds in the Pre-Paid account.

13. (Previously Presented) The Pre-Paid mediator according to Claim 12, wherein the proxies are not in direct contact with the Pre-Paid platform.

14. (Currently amended) A machine-readable medium having instructions stored thereon, such that when the instructions are read and executed by a processor, the processor is configured to perform the steps of:

- applications communicate with the Pre-Paid platform, wherein,
- the applications are arranged to communicate with at least one proxy and the Pre-Paid platform correspondingly with a charging~~billing~~ module, in which case the proxy and the charging~~billing~~-module communicated with each other in a logically predefined manner, in which case

- the proxies are used to collect and manage the services used by the customers, the charging~~billing~~ models, and rating, and

- the charging~~billing~~ module is used to ~~bill~~-charge a customer's Pre-Paid account, which is located on the Pre-Paid platform, or in a system behind the Pre-Paid platform, wherein

the charging module charges a customer's Pre-Paid account by converting charging information received from the proxy into a format understood by the Pre-Paid platform,

the proxy is used to control the delivery of the service used by the user, and

the proxies prevents services being delivered to the user, if the user's pre-paid account is empty, or if the price of the service is greater than the funds in the Pre-Paid account.

15. (Currently amended) A method for managing customer accounts in connection with a Pre-Paid platform, in which method

- applications communicate with the Pre-Paid platform, wherein,
- the application including at least one of multimedia messaging (MMS), short message service (SMS), or general packet radio system (GPRS), and wherein, the application is arranged to communicate with a proxy and the Pre-Paid platform correspondingly with a charging module, in which case the proxy and the charging module communicated with each other in a logically predefined manner, in which case
 - the proxy is used to collect and manage amount of service used by a customers, charging model, an identification of a service used, and data concerning rating,
 - the proxy sends the charging module data concerning the amount of service used by the customer, the charging model, the identification of the service used, and the data concerning rating, and
 - the charging module is used to ~~bill-charge~~ the customer's Pre-Paid account, which is located on the Pre-Paid platform, or coupled to the Pre-Paid platform by converting the data received from the proxy into a format understood by the Pre-Paid platform.

16. (Currently amended) A Pre-Paid mediator for managing customer accounts in connection with a Pre-Paid platform, in which mediator includes

- a charging module for communicating with the Pre-Paid platform, and
- at least one proxy for communicating with at least one application including at least one of short message service (SMS), general packet radio system (GPRS), or multimedia messaging (MMS), wherein
 - the data-transfer interface in the direction of the applications is formed to be logically one-way, in which case the proxies can be made modular,
 - each proxy includes a unit for collecting and managing an amount of services used by a customer, data concerning pricing and an identification of a service used by a customer,
 - each of the proxies send the charging module the amount of services used by the customer, the data concerning pricing and the identification of the service used by the customer, and wherein
 - the charging module includes a unit for ~~charging/billing~~ a customer's Pre-Paid account in the Pre-Paid platform by converting the data received from the proxy into a format understood by the Pre-Paid platform.

17. (New) A method for managing customer accounts in connection with a Pre-Paid platform, the method comprising:

- receiving, at a proxy, a request for service from a subscriber;
- determining, at the proxy, a service code associated with the requested service;
- sending charge data, including the service code, to a charging module;
- converting, in the charging module, the received charge data and service code into a predefined format accepted by the Pre-Paid platform;

sending the converting charge data to the Pre-Paid platform;

receiving an indication from the Pre-Paid platform as to whether the subscriber has an adequate balance to cover the requested service; and

controlling, by the proxy, whether or nor the requested service is provided based on the received indication.